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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,970	12/20/2001	Karl Hansen	24,954-25	9112
JOHN F. KLOS FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P. 80 SOUTH 8TH STREET SUITE 2100 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402				
EXAMINER			AMIRI, NAHID	
ART UNIT			PAPER NUMBER	
3679				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/033,970

**Applicant(s)**

HANSEN, KARL

**Examiner**

NAHID AMIRI

**Art Unit**

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/888)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

In view of Applicant's Amendment received 19 August 2008, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 12, 15-24 and 27-31 are canceled. Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 26 are pending.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

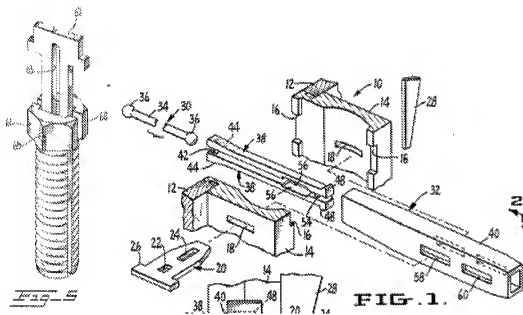
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 3,456,547 Strong in view of US Patent No. 4,221,357 Bowden.**

With respect to claim 1, Strong discloses an apparatus for coupling (Figs. 1-2, 5) comprising a plate (62) having a pair of generally opposed surfaces and an oblong slot aperture (63) extending between the pair of surfaces, and with the oblong slot aperture (63) being defined by a pair of generally parallel opposite walls spaced a predetermined distance apart; a coupling member (constituted by a threaded bolt) having an external thread set; and a knob (10) having an internal thread set adapted to engage the external thread set of the coupling member thereby connecting the knob (10) to the plate (62). Strong fails to disclose that the coupling member having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending a length of the coupling member and spaced for insertion into the slot aperture, whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture prevents the coupling member from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate. Bowden teaches an assembly (Fig. 1) comprising a plate (38) having a slot aperture (56), a coupling member (20), wherein the coupling member (20) having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending a length of the

coupling member (20) and spaced for insertion into a slot aperture (56), whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture (56) prevents the coupling member (20) from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate (38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide the coupling member of Strong with a pair of side walls as taught by Bowden in order to limit the movement of the coupling member within the plate member.



With respect to claim 6, Strong discloses (Fig. 5) that the coupling member has a larger diameter dimension than a thickness dimension of the plate (62).

With respect to claim 10, Strong discloses an apparatus for connecting two members together (Figs. 1, 2, 5) comprising a plate (62) having a pair of centrally opposed major surfaces and an oblong slot aperture (63) extending between the pair of major surfaces, the oblong slot defining a pair of generally parallel side walls; an elongate threaded coupling member (constituted by a bolt) having an external thread set; and a knob (10) having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, wherein said

external thread set of the threaded coupling member is threadedly received within the internal thread set, wherein at least a portion of the plate (62) extends into the internal thread set of the knob (10) to secure the knob (10) to the plate (62). Strong fails to disclose that the coupling member having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending a length of the coupling member and spaced for insertion into the slot aperture, whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture prevents the coupling member from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate. Bowden teaches an assembly (Fig. 1) comprising a plate (38) having a slot aperture (56), a coupling member (20), wherein the coupling member (20) having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending a length of the coupling member (20) and spaced for insertion into a slot aperture (56), whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture (56) prevents the coupling member (20) from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate (38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide the coupling member of Strong with a pair of side walls as taught by Bowden in order to limit the movement of the coupling member within the plate member.

With respect to claim 11, Strong discloses (Figs. 2, 5) that the elongate threaded coupling member is two longitudinal portions of a threaded shank each having a threaded exterior surface and a substantially flat interior surface.

With respect to claim 13, Strong discloses (Figs. 2, 5) wherein the thickness of the first member (62) is less than a diameter of the internal thread set.

With respect to claim 14, Strong discloses an apparatus for joining knob (10) to plate (62) via a threaded coupling member (Figs. 2, 5), the apparatus comprising a plate (62) having an oblong slot aperture (63) disposed proximate an edge; an elongate threaded coupling member (constituted by a bolt) having an external thread set and a knob (10) having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of both the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the first member to secularly bind the first member to the second member. Strong fails to disclose that the coupling member having a pair of generally parallel

side walls extending a length of the coupling member and spaced for insertion into the slot aperture, whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture prevents the coupling member from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate. Bowden teaches an assembly (Fig. 1) comprising a plate (38) having a slot aperture (56), a coupling member (20), wherein the coupling member (20) having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending a length of the coupling member (20) and spaced for insertion into a slot aperture (56), whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture (56) prevents the coupling member (20) from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate (38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide the coupling member of Strong with a pair of side walls as taught by Bowden in order to limit the movement of the coupling member within the plate member.

With respect to claim 25, Strong discloses (Figs. 1-3) that the elongate threaded coupling member is two longitudinal portions of a threaded shank each having a threaded exterior surface and a substantially flat interior surface.

With respect to claim 26, Strong discloses (Figs. 2, 5) that the thickness of the first member is less than a diameter of the internal thread set.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action, e.g., claim 1, lines 7-11, the limitation of "the coupling member having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending a length of the coupling member and spaced for insertion into the slot aperture, whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture prevents the

coupling member from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate”, was not claimed in original claimed invention.

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3679  
November 23, 2008

/Daniel P. Stodola/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679